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MADRAS

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MADURA YOUNG MEN.

It is only when men stay in the lowlands of selfinterest, or abide in the swamps of self indulgence, that their views of life are narrowly circumscribed. Let a man master himself but once and he stands on higher ground with wider outlook, with keener vision and clearer atmosphere.

—*Harold Bell Wright: Their Yesterdays.*

THE ASSOCIATION AND THE CHURCH IN INDIA

To combine a Christian Club with a Christian Servants of India Society—this seems to be the ideal whch the Association in India is setting before it. At any rate, let us take these two aspects of its work, and consider their bearing upon its relationship with the Church.

It is a big and ambitious programme and one that is full of pos-ibilities. Yet because the Association is young, democratic, and optimistic, I believe we can, with God's help, carry it out.

A Christian Club in every town, city and village of India! What a tremendous force that may become; for when men of different religions and different races get together in a Christian spirit and in a Christian atmosphere, astonishing things will begin to happen

In the first place they will help one another to think out some of the burning problems of the Christian Church,

and this will lead them on, not only, one believes, to the discovery of the essential message of Christ to India, which will be unlike what we know as Western Christianity, but to a new impatience with imported rivalries, and to a new spirit of good-will in uniting in Christian service. For if the Association is to be a real combination of the Christian Club and the Servants of India Society, it means that it must do the same kind of thorough work, both in study and in social service, which Mr. Gokhale's great society is doing. More thought, more study, more expert knowledge of India's needs and of how to meet them:—this is the challenge which it seems to me the Association has to meet, and we shall need something more than youth and democracy and optimism if we are going to respond to it.

But these may carry us a long way, for the Association does undoubtedly appeal to the best Indians by its democracy, and it can do an incalculable service if it trains up Christian leaders for the Church. Again, the spirit of optimism is the only spirit in which to attempt social reform, for the pessimists never yet accomplished anything; and in an old and careworn country youth again is a priceless assert

Let us think in detail, then, how best we may use these gifts which are ours as an Association. Because we are democratic we must be striving to bring together men of all classes and men of different religions; we are doing this in our student hostels and in our boys' clubs, but it has long seemed to me that we might open clubs for the more mature and thoughtful people; e. g. for the sympathetic, broad-minded Hindu and Muhammadan officials and professional men, many of whom would welcome such

places. Among such, Theological Circles and Study Circles may lead to great results, as we learn from one another, and it is amazing how in the West the Student Movement, because of its youth and democracy, has accomplished great things by bringing older people together.

In the same way, within the Christian Church we have to strive to bring together the various denominations, realising that each has its special genius. In our Clubs it would be a great thing if we could get something of the fullness and richness of the Catholic Church, represented. In our Student Camps we do from time to time get a glimpse of the dignity and reverence of one church, of the passion for souls of another, of the power of preaching of a third, and of the genius for democracy of a fourth. But these things are possible also amongst older groups of men, and India is asking insistently for toleration, and for a religion which is greater than our differences. May not the Association help to build a really Catholic Church in India?

With regard to Social Service, the Association must become the servant of the Church by becoming the organized expression of the Church's services. There are everywhere students and others demanding to be trained in expert Social Service, and in this I cannot help feeling that some of our secretaries would do well to join Mr. Sastri and the Servants of India Society and to study for a few years with them. Here, as in our thinking, we must become thorough, and we must confer one with another as to the best methods of Social Service. Our Physical Department is making a splendid contribution in this way, and indeed all our work is of the nature of Christian Social Service. One thinks with gratitude of the Rural Depart-

ment, and of how it is facing problems, and these departments are a fore-shadowing of the kind of work, which, with God's providence, the Association seems called upon to do for the Indian Church.

During the war it has in the West come to be thought of as the Church's Guild of service; and whilst men have been working together in serving the troops they have gone further than many of them know towards solving the problem of unity, for it is in raising our service to the highest level that we can discern for it that we meet with God and gain new vision and new inspiration. And so men are coming to see that if each denomination can rejoice in the success of the others, and if all can unite in a great campaign of friendliness and service, there are no barriers raised by human hands which cannot be overcome. Youthful impatience will not overcome them, nor shallow optimism, but hard thinking and persistent prayer; and in our Clubs the best room in the house should be set aside for these all-important forms of work, and made beautiful and attractive as no other room is. It will become the Power Station of all our work, and help us really to put first things first.

In this and other ways we must make it abundantly clear to the Church of Christ that we are essentially a religious orgnization, that we are anxious to serve her as Christ's chosen instrument for establishing God's Kingdom, and that we must be thorough in our attempt, as well as young and cheerful in our spirit.

K. J. SAUNDERS,

in "Young Men of India".

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BUILDING CAMPAIGN

The campaign which began among the Indian Christian Community of Madura on August 1st to raise funds towards a new building for the Y.M.C.A., has proved most successful Rs. 1,500 was the amount estimated as the total which might be looked for. At the end of the third day's canvass, this amount had already been undertaken. Up to the end of August 8th, the amounts stood as follows for the various congregations of the city —

Church of England	Rs. 1,413
Church of Sweden	135
South India United Church:—	
East Gate	266
West Gate	464
North Gate	85
South Gate	43
Pasumalai	200
	Rs 2.606

Committees are at work in the various churches, canvassing for further subscriptions, and it is hoped to secure Rs 3,000, or double the original estimate. Special thanks are due to Rev. H. A. Popley of Erode, for giving five days to this canvass. His help was most valuable

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A FRIEND PASSES ON.

We are grateful to Mr. K. E. Nainan, M.A. of the staff of the American College from whose pen comes the following memorial of the late Mr. P. C. Chacko, one of the best known and loved of our members.

IN MEMORIAM.

We are very sorry to have to record the death of Mr. P. C. Chacko, student, American College, Madura, one of our active members, who also helped us last year as our Sports Supervisor. His passing took place on July 29th.

Our acquaintance with Mr. Chacko dates back to about four years ago when he came and joined the College. All through the four years in the College he was interested in all sides of College life. He was specially interested in athletics and distinguished himself in games. His achievements in athletics and his good and pleasing manners, made him a general favourite. Year before last he was captain of the college foot-ball team, and last year played as the central forward of the College team which won the Torn Athletic Foot-ball Tournament Cup.

Mr. Chacko was a Malayalee a Travancorean, and a Syrian Christian. He was aged only twenty-two at the time of death. He was buried in the S. P. G. Church cemetery and Mr G. S. Abraham B.A., L.T., assisted by Principal Zumbro conducted the funeral service, at which Mr. Bryce gave a short address.

The Madura Y.M.C.A. tenders its heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the members of the bereaved family and others friends of this young man whom the Almighty has taken away from us so early, we donot know definitely why, but trust for the ultimate and real best of himself and all of us.

SOURASHTRAPRESS, MADURA.